



# Creation Season

Proper 23, Year A, October 12, 2008

*Special Recognition of the Place of Food in our Lives  
Food as Community*

A Bulletin Insert for the congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota

## Lessons (Revised Common Lectionary)

Exodus 32: 1-14

Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23

Philippians 4: 1-9

Matthew 22: 1-14

Isaiah 25: 1-9

Psalm 23

## Collect

Gracious God you rained down manna on our ancestors in the wilderness: may we feel the daily blessing of plenty from your gracious hand, and be so nurtured by this earthly community gathered in your name that we evermore sing your praises with all our lives, through Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit live and reign forever and ever. *Amen.*

or

O gracious Father, who openest thine hand and fillest all things living with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let thy Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show thy loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what thou givest, that men and women everywhere may give thee thanks; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*(For the Harvest of Lands and Waters, BCP, page 828)*



## Sharing Food in Community

At how many levels have you sometimes participated in a community gathered around eating a meal? Children love birthday parties. Campers roast wieners around a campfire. Families build traditions around Sunday dinner and Easter breakfast. One of the most inclusive things we do is invite others to our home for a meal. Congregations have potluck suppers to extend the practice of Christian community beyond the sanctuary.



In Scripture we find stories of mealtime gatherings used as metaphors for the heavenly banquet God offers. One example is the wedding reception described in both Matthew and Luke in which the host extends the invitation to all who hear and respond.

Eucharist is the meal at the common table in which we participate with others in celebration of Jesus' sacrifice of himself, and in memory of his meal in community with his disciples at the Last Supper.

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